

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION  
CS-31: "LIVE STAKES"

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31.1 SCOPE

This construction specification governs the installation of live stakes for erosion control and/or bank stabilization. Installation shall be at the location and to the lines and grades of the plan.

31.2 SITE PREPARATION

The treatment areas shall be stable and/or shaped prior to installation of the live stakes to the lines and grades as shown on the construction drawings.

31.3 MATERIALS

The live stakes shall be from native woody plant materials or woody plant materials adapted to the site. The plant species and dimensions are shown on the drawings. The plant material shall be free from disease and harmful insects. The plant materials shall be installed within 48 hours after initial preparation unless refrigerated.

Remove leaves and side branches from cuttings and do not use the first year growth. The basal ends should be cut at an angle and the top cut square. Cuttings must not be allowed to dry out and must be kept covered and moist during transport and storage.

31.4 INSTALLATION

Installation of the live stakes shall be made by one of the following methods:

- a. Use a steel bar to make a pilot hole to the specified planting depth.
- b. In soft ground where the live stake will not be injured, a dead blow hammer may be used to drive the live stake to the planting depth. The live stakes shall be trimmed to remove damage sections.

At least two lateral buds shall be exposed above the soil surface. The soil shall be tamped and the planting shall be watered within 24 hours after planting.